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AUTHOR Tilakaratne, Sunanda
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ABSTRACT

Most studies that have been conducted on locative constructions in many languages show the relationship between the figure and the ground in terms of geometrical or topological terms. This report shows that in Sinhala the locative expressions answer not only the question "Where is the object X," but also indicate how the figure is oriented in relation to the ground. It is also shown that the verb forms appearing in Sinhala locative expressions are sensitive to the animate/inanimate distinction. The major goal of the study is to show how the equivalents of English spatial prepositional expressions are constructed in Sinhala and how they differ from expressions in English. It is concluded that spatial expressions in Sinhala show that what Sinhala speakers conceive and conceptualize are not only the relation of the spatial entity to the localizer, but also the states, events, and actions that are involved in originating those schematizations. (JL)

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SPATIAL EXPRESSIONS IN SINHALA: Appearance of Verb Forms

Sunanda Tilakaratne

Abstract: Most of the studies done on locative constructions in many languages show the relationship between the figure and the ground in terms of geometrical and/or topological terms. This paper shows that in Sinhala the locative expressions answer the question not only 'Where is the object X?' but also 'How the figure is oriented in relation to the ground?'. Also it is shown that the verb forms appearing in Sinhala locative expressions, are sensitive to the animate/inanimate distinction.

Introduction

Sinhala (also called Sinhalese) is the language of the majority of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean 22 miles southeast of India. Sinhala belongs to the Indo European language family. At early stages Sinhala was influenced by Sanskrit and Pali, which belong to the same language family. The earliest influence of Tamil, which is a Dravidian language, has been traced back to the 11th century A. D. Tamil has been

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a contact language for many centuries since then. Later, from the16th century to the 20th century there were Portugese, Dutch, and English people in the country. The effect of these languages can be mainly seen in the lexicon. Since Sinhala did not have close contacts with other sister languages such as Hindi, Urdu or Bengali, it has developed many characteristics of its own.

The Goal of the Study

The major goal of this study is to show how the equivalents of English spatial prepositional expressions are constructed in Sinhala and how they differ from spatial expressions in English.

I will first describe how Sinhala expresses spatial relations and secondly compare spatial expressions in English and Sinhala. The structural differences between the two languages reveal interesting facts about language in general. However, this paper deals mainly with structural differences and will not concentrate on the semantic differences between the two languages. Semantic aspects will be discussed only when it is necessary to clarify structural differences.

Various labels have been assigned to the two noun phrases associated with the spatial prepositions. In the present study, I will use the terms spatial entity and the localizer, following Weinsberg (1973) and Ceinki (1989).

An Overview of the Sinhala Grammar and the Spatial Relations

Sinhala grammarians distinguish three types of words. They are the nouns, verbs, and particles. The third category is described as consisting of words which come before, after, and in between nouns and verbs and change the meanings of words. All the words which do not belong to nouns and verbs such as conjunctions, question words, locatives, emphatic words etc. fall into this category. I will examine below which category of lexical items in Sinhala represents the equivalent meanings of prepositions in English.

The major difficulty in finding translation equivalents in Sinhala for English prepositions is that there is no one category of lexical items in Sinhala, which represents the equivalent meanings of prepositions in English. First, I would like to explore some of the difficulties that would arise in finding translation equivalents of English prepositions in Sinhala by briefly looking into the case system in Sinhala, and examining which use types of English prepositions are presented by means of the case system.

Case system in Sinhala: The Sinhala language distinguishes nine cases. They are the nominative, accusative, instrumental, auxiliary, dative, ablative, genitive, locative and vocative cases. Among these, Sinhala uses the ablative and locative cases to mark spatial relations.

Ceinki (1989) defines ablative spatial behavior as indicating the increase of the distance between the spatial entity and the localizer. Cumaratunga (1983) defines the ablative case as "the initial margin of the verb". This is similar to the spatial sense of the English expressions such as 'away from' and 'out of' which indicate the initiation of the distance between the spatial entity and the localizer. The following example shows that Sinhala uses the suffix -ɛn for this purpose.

(1) a. kurulla ku:duwɛn iwəṭə pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
kurull-a: ku:duw-ə-ɛn iwəṭə pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
bird+the cage+the+from outof flew
The bird flew out of the cage.

b. kurulla: ku:duwɛn pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
kurull-a: ku:duw-ə-ɛn pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
bird+the cage+the+from flew
The bird flew from the cage.

The locative spatial expressions, are used to show the spatial entity in the place identified by the prepositional place.

(2) a. jane:ləjɛhi sitinə mæssa:
jane:ləj-ə-ɛhi sitinə mæss-a:
window+the+in staying fly+the
the fly on the window

b. si:limɛhi sitinə makuluwa:
si:lim-ə-ɛhi sitinə makuluw-a
ceiling+the+in staying spider+the
the spider on the ceiling

The Sinhala term for this case 'a:d̲ha:rə' means the 'support' provided by the localizer. The suffixes a̲, ɛ̲, ɛ̲hi̲, hi̲ are the singular noun markers for this case. The following examples of the locative case are taken from Perera (1960).

(3) a. gasə mud̲unɛhi wɛsɛnə kurullo
gas-ə mud̲un-a-ɛhi wɛsɛnə kurull-o:
tree+the top+the+in living birds+the
the birds that live on top of the tree

b. pa:sælɛhi (æt̲i) kɛlipitiyə
pa:sæl-ə-ɛhi (æt̲i) kɛlipitiy-ə
school+the+in (has) playground+the
the playground of the school

c. gamɛhi (wɛsɛnə) gæhænu
gam-ə-ɛhi (wɛsɛnə) gæhæn-u
village+the+in (living) women+the
the women in the village
(inclusion, boundary)

d. putuwɛhi sitinə minisa:
putuw-ə-ɛhi sitinə minis-a:
chair+the+in staying man+the
the man on the chair.

Structural Differences between the Two Languages

Examples in 3. a-d show, that Sinhala expresses spatial relations using suffixes. Sinhala also uses postpositions to express locative relations of support:

(4)

balla:	pæḏurə	udə	siti:.
ball-a:	pæḏur-ə	udə	siti:.
dog+the	mat+the	on	staying.

The dog is on the mat.

The postposition 'udə' in Sinhala expresses an equivalent meaning of English preposition 'on' as shown in the following example.

(5)

pæḏurə	udə
pæḏur-ə	udə
mat+the	on

on the mat

The example below illustrates the placement of the localizers, spatial entities and the postpositions in a more complex spatial construction.

(6)

ka:mərəjɛhi æṭi me:səjə udə æṭi mallɛhi æṭi poṭə
ka:mərəj-ə-ɛhi æṭi me:səj-ə udə æṭi mall-ə-ɛhi æṭi poṭə
room+the+in has table+the on has bag+the+in has book+the
the book in the bag on the table in the room

Use of suffixes and postpositions: It was shown above that Sinhala uses both suffixes and postpositions to show spatial relations. In some cases, where English uses the same preposition Sinhala may use either a postposition or a suffix depending on which sense of the preposition the speaker wants to convey. The following two examples illustrate the occurance of the postposition and the suffix in place of the English preposition on.

(7) galə udə sitinə monəra:
gal-ə udə sitinə monər-a:
rock+the on staying peacock+the
the peacock on the rock

The postposition udə, which is the only locative marker in the phrase, conveys the equivalent meaning of the preposition on in this example. The following is another example where on occurs.

(8) d̪ænwi:m puwəruwɛhi
d̪ænwi:m puwəruw-ə-ɛhi
bulletin board+the+on
on the bulletin board

In this example, the suffix -ɛhi in puwəruwɛhi is the locative case maker, which indicates the equivalent meaning of the English preposition on in English.

What we have seen in surface structures of Sinhala and English are the realizations of the same underlying elements.

Where English uses prepositions, Sinhala uses postpositions and suffixes instead.

One goal of this study will be to examine when Sinhala would use suffixes and when it would use postpositions in representing the meaning equivalents of the English prepositions selected for this study. To illustrate the difference between the suffixes and the postpositions, it is necessary to look into some semantic aspects of the postpositions. I will use one of the most frequent postpositions, to illustrate that the use of the suffix or the postposition depends on semantic aspects.

The postposition uḍə and the suffix -ɛhi represent different senses of the English preposition on. The preposition on has different senses with regard to its locative aspect. Linguists such as Herskovits (1986) and Ceinki (1989) have a given a central, core meaning for this preposition, which they label as the ideal meaning. The variations of the core meaning are given as use types.

Ceinki (1989: 63) gives three semantic conditions, support, contact with boundary, and attachment for the use of the preposition on. Of the above three, the semantic condition of support, can occur in various contexts.

The semantic condition 'support' and the preposition on: The preposition on occurs in various contexts. Among them are the instances where the localizer provides various types of support to the spatial entity. The following are examples:

(9)

a. on the table as in the book on the table
b. on the mat as in the cat on the mat
c. on the roof as in the squirrel on the roof
d. & e. on my hand as in the ant running on my hand
f. on my hand as in the body of a mouse on my hand
g. on the lake as in the piece of wood floating on the lake
h. on the lake as in the boat sailing on the lake
i. on the lake as in the swan swimming on the lake
j. on the hook as in the umbrella on the hook
k. on the branch as in the dead leaves on the branch
l. on the head as in a hat on your head
m. on the clothes line as in the clothes on the clothes line
n. on a line as in a bird perched on a line
o. on the equator as in the countries on the equator
p. on the ceiling as in the spider on the ceiling
q. on the window as in the rain drops on the window
r. on the shirt as in the button on the shirt
s. on my finger as in the ring on my finger
t. on the lake as in a state on lake Michigan
u. on the border as in cities on the Mexican border

Of these various kinds of contexts when the localizer is a supporting upward facing surface, on which the spatial entity is located, the postposition udə is used. The postposition udə is the only locative marker of the following phrases.

(9) a. me:səjə udə
me:səj-ə udə
table+the on
on the table

b. pæḏurə udə
pæḏur-ə udə
mat+the on
on the mat

c. wahalə udə
wahal-ə udə
roof+the on
on the roof

Table, mat, roof all have an upward facing surface, and in the examples given the spatial entity is located on the upward facing surface of the localizer. The upward facing surface may be of any shape. For example, the shape of the roofs of buildings such as houses, temples and other types of buildings vary. Some roofs may be flat and others may have various types of slopes. Irrespective of its shape, a bird may sit on an upside down 'v' shape roof and the spatial relation ship is lexicalized using the postposition 'udə' as in the example, 9. c.

Example 9. d- f. illustrate this fact further. Example 9. d could be used only when one streches his hand so as to have an upward facing surface and shows that an ant is running on his hand, where as 9. e. the ant does not necessarily have to be seen as running on an upward fac.ng surface of a hand. Example 9. f. shows when one shows a dead mouse kept on his palm.

(9) d. mage: aɻə udə (ɠuwənə ku:ɓija:)
mage: aɻ-ə udə (ɠuwənə ku:ɓij-a:)
my hand+the on (running ant+the)
on my hand
(the ant running on my hand)

e. mage: aɻɛhi (ɠuwənə ku:ɓija:)
mage: aɻ-ə-ɛhi (ɠuwənə ku:ɓij-a:)
my hand+on (running ant+the)
on my hand (the ant running on my hand)

f. mage: aɻə udə (æɻi mi:kunə)
mage: aɻ-ə udə (æɻi mi:kun-ə)
my hand+the on (has the dead body of a mouse)
on my hand (has the dead body of a mouse)
(the dead body of a mouse on my hand)

In the example 9. g. a) the piece of wood is conceived as floating on the surface of the water. It is equally acceptable to use 9. g. b) where the piece of wood is conceived as located within the boundaries of the lake. In examples, h. and i. the boat and the swan are seen as located within the boundaries of the lake. Since boats and swans are often seen within the boundaries of lakes, the use of the postposition 'udə' seems rather unusual . Therefore, in these examples, the volume of the water in the lake is conceived as a region with boundary rather than a supporting surface for the spatial entity.

(9) g. a) wæwə udə pa:wɛnə ʃi:kotəjə
wæw-ə udə pa:wɛnə li:kotəj-ə
lake+the on floating piece of wood+the
the piece of wood floating on the lake

b) wæwɛhi pa:wɛnə li:kotəjə
wæw-ə-ɛhi pa:wɛnə li:kotəj-ə
lake+the on floating piece of wood+the
the piece of wood floating on the lake

h. wæwɛhi jənə oruwə
wæw-ə-ɛhi jənə oruw-ə
lake+the sailing boat+the
the boat sailing on the lake

i. wæwɛhi pi:nənə hansəja:
wæw-ə-ɛhi pi:nənə hansəj-a:
lake+the+on swimming swan+the
the swan swimming on the lake

The following are examples, where the localizer provides support for the spatial entity, and the localizer is not conceived as having an upward facing surface. The suffix -ɛhi occurs in such instances.

(9) j. kokkɛhi
kokk-ə-ɛhi
hook+the+on
on the hook

k. aṯṯɛhi
aṯṯ-ə-ɛhi
branch+the+on
on the branch

l. hisɛhi
his-ə-ɛhi
head+the+on
on the head

When a real line or an imaginery line is involved, the localizer is not conceived as having an upward facing surface, the suffix -ɛhi is used as the locative case marker.

(9) m. rɛḍiwælɛhi
rɛḍi-wæl-ə-ɛhi
clothes+line+the+on
on the clothes line

n. wælɛhi
wæl-ə-ɛhi
line+the+on
on a line

o. saməkəjɛhi
saməkəj-ə-ɛhi
equator+the+on
on the equator

The Semantic Condition Attachment: The following are the examples of attachment and their Sinhala translations.

(9) p. si:limɛhi
si:lim-ə-ɛhi
ceiling+the+on
on the ceiling

q. ǰane:ləjɛhi
ǰane:ləj-ə-ɛhi
window+the+on
on the window

r. kamisəjɛhi
kamisəj-ə-ɛhi
shirt+the+on
on the shirt

The phrases 9 d. and e. above compared with the phrase 9. s. below show, how Sinhala represents a moving object as the spatial entity in 'the ant running on my hand', compared with a spatial entity which is not moving or has restricted movements as in 'the ring on my finger'.

(9) s. mage: æg̃illɛhi (æṭi muḍuwə)
mage: æg̃ill-ə-ɛhi (æṭi muḍuwə)
my finger+the+on (has ring+the)
on my finger (the ring on my finger)

The suffix -ɛhi, attached to the localizer in Sinhala is used to express the meaning equivalent of attachment expressed by the preposition on in English.

The Semantic Condition Contact with Boundary: The semantic condition contact with the boundary is expressed in the examples 9. t. and u. These are translated using the suffix -ɛhi in Sinhala.

(9) t. wæwə ajinɛhi
wæwə ajin-ə-ɛhi
lake+the edge+the+in
on the lake
(at the edge of the lake)

u. ma:jimɛhi
ma:jim-ə-ɛhi
border+the+in
on the border

The above examples 9. a-u show that of the various senses expressed by the English preposition on, the postposition udə is only used when a spatial entity is located on an upward facing surface of a localizer. In all other instances the suffix -ɛhi is used.

It is worth mentioning here that both locative markers, the postposition udə and the suffix -ɛhi cannot be used together with the same noun to indicate the localizer. For example,

(10) a. *mage: aṭɛhi udə
my hand on
on my hand

b. *galɛhi udə
rock+the+on on
on the rock

are not acceptable to Sinhala speakers because of its apparent redundancy. The correct usage is given in examples, (9) d. and (6) respectively.

Metaphorical uses

One of the areas that linguists find difficult to analyze are metaphors. The literal translation of a metaphor (word to word) may not give the same meaning in another language. Therefore, when considering metaphors it is important to translate the intended meaning rather than the literal meaning. Here are some metaphorical uses of on in English.

(11) a. on you as in Do you have money on you?
b. on your mind as in What's on your mind?
c. on this occasion as in a speech on this occasion

The Sinhala transaltions of the above are:

(11) a. obə lagə
you near
near/with you

or

obe: aɻɛhi
obe: aɻ-ə-ɛhi
your hand+the+in
in your hand

b. obe: siɻɛhi
obe: siɻ-ə-ɛhi
your mind+the+on
on your mind

c. me: awasɻa:wɛhi
me: awasɻa:w-ə-ɛhi
this occasion+the+on
on this occasion

Translation equivalents of Sinhala shows that the embodiment of English expressions can be quite different in Sinhala. For example, (11) a. shows that a person can have money in his hand or near/with him. But the examples, b. and c. seems to be similar to that of English. As indicated above linguists find it difficult to stipulate any rules regarding the metaphorical uses of any language or their translation equivalents.

Appearance of the verb form in Sinhala constructions

Now I will consider some more constructions that could appear in English. First, I will look at the stative expression, There is a book on the mat.

(12) pæḍurə udə poṭak æṭə
pæḍur-ə udə poṭa-k æṭə
mat+the on book+a lying
There is a book on the mat.

The same idea can be expressed in English as a noun phrase containing a prepositional phrase. The stative verb disappears in the English noun phrase, the book on the mat . The translation equivalent of this type of a simple phrase shows that the stative verb does not disappear in the Sinhala constructions.

(13) pæḍurə udə æṭi poṭə
pæḍur-ə udə æṭi poṭ-ə
mat+the on lying book+the.
the book on the mat

The above example and the examples below, further illustrate the fact that the Sinhala constructions require a verb form which does not appear in the English translations. Consider the following:

(14) a. gɛjə pitupasə æṭi maduwə
gɛj-ə pitupasə æṭi maduw-ə
house+the behind has shed-the
the shed behind the house

b. liðɛhi æɻi waɻurə
lið-ə-ɛhi æɻi waɻur-ə
well+the+in has water+the
the water in the well

c. me:səjətə udin æɻi pahanə
me:səjət-ə udin æɻi pahan-ə
table+the above has lamp+the
the light above the table

d. pansələ iḍiripasə æɻi bo:gasə
pansəl-ə iḍiripasə æɻi bo:gas-ə
temple in front of has botree+the
the bo tree in front of the temple

e. gasə jatə sitinə le:na:
gas-ə jatə sitinə le:n-a:
tree+the under staying squirrel+the
the squirrel under the tree

f. pælæ:ti mæḍə æɻi walpælə
pælæ:ti mæḍə æɻi walpæl-ə
weeds the in between has weeds+the
the weeds in between the plants

g. me:səjə lag̃ə sitinə gæhænijə
me:səj-ə lag̃ə sitinə gæhænij-ə
table+the near staying woman+the
the woman at the table

h. muhudu ma:jimɛn pahaʈə æʈi idam
muhudu ma:jim-ə-ɛn pahaʈə æʈi idam
sea level+the+from down has land+the
the land below the sea level

The relationship between the spatial entity and the localizer has been described by linguists such as Talmy (1980: 233,1983: p.258-259) in terms of geometric components. In English, the preposition of a spatial expression encodes a great deal about the geometry of the localizer, and all the semantic load is carried out by the preposition. But the preposition encodes little or none about the geometry of the spatial entity. As opposed to English, Sinhala spatial expressions carry information about the spatial entity. The verb form that occurs in the Sinhala spatial expressions tells us whether the spatial entity is animate or inanimate, whether it is moving or static and in some cases gives information about its orientation. First, I will discuss the animate inanimate distinction encoded in the verb form.

Significance of the animacy of the spatial entity: The distinction between animate and inanimate spatial entities affects the verb form of the Sinhala constructions. This sensitivity of the verb form in Sinhala spatial expressions is illustrated in the following examples.

(15) a. pæḏurə udə sitinə balla
pæḏur-ə udə sitinə ball-a
mat+the on staying dog+the
the dog on the mat

b. pæḏurə udə æʈi poɪə
pæḏur-ə udə æʈi poɪ-ə
mat+the on lying book+the
the book on the mat

These examples show that if the spatial entity is inanimate then the verb 'æʈi' is used and if the spatial entity is animate then the verb 'sitinə' is used.

The general rules of animacy apply in selection of verbs corresponding to the animacy of the spatial entity. For example, if the speaker is referring to a dead body, then the verb æʈi is used. If the speaker conceives the spatial entity as animate, then the verb sitinə is used.

(16) a. juḏə pitijɛhi sitinə solḏa:ḏuwa:
juḏə pitijɛhi sitinə solḏa:ḏuw-a:
war field staying soldier+the
the soldier on the war field

b. juḏə pitijɛhi æʈi malə sirurə
juḏə pitijɛhi æʈi malə sirur-ə
war field has dead body+the
the dead body on the war field

or

c. juḏə pitijɛhi æʈi solḏa:ḏuwa:ge: malə sirurə
juḏə pitijɛhi æʈi solḏa:ḏuw-a:-ge: malə sirur-ə
war field has soldier+the+#pos. dead body+the
the dead body of the soldier on the war field

possesive marker

As it is in English, Sinhala represents a body of a person as an inanimate entity and hence the use of the verb æʈi.

Occurance of verb forms other than stative verbs

Following are some of the verbs that express the spatial relations in Sinhala. In Sinhala constructions, the occurance of the verb denoting an action and the stative verb that follows it represent a resultative state. The speaker conceives the state of the spatial entity as a result of the action of the verb. For example, in 17.a the Sinhala equivalent of 'the cat hiding under the table' shows that the cat is locàted under the table as a consequence of its action of hiding under the table.

(17) a. me:səjə jatə hæg̃i: sitinə balәla:
me:səj-ə jatə hæg̃i: sitinə balәl-a:
table+the under hiding staying cat+the
the cat hiding under the table

b. oluwɛn sitəgɛnə sitinə minisa:
oluw-ə-ɛn sitəgɛnə sitinə minis-a:
head+the+with standing staying man+the
the man standing on his head

c. æd̆ə udə niḏa:gɛnə sitinə laḏəruwa:
æd̆-ə udə niḏa:gɛnə sitinə laḏəruw-a:
bɛd+the on sleeping staying child+the
the baby sleeping on the bed

d. pahan aṯərə æṯi itipanḏəmə
pahan+0 aṯərə æṯi itipanḏəmə
lamps+the in between has candle+the
the candle in between the lamps

e. gasɛhi ɛṯi: æṯi wælə
gas-ə-ɛhi ɛṯi: æṯi wælə
tree+the+in twined has vine+the
the vine twined on the tree

f. me:səjə asələ jaṯuru lijəmin sitinə gæhænijə
me:səj-ə asələ jaṯuru lijəmin sitinə gæhænij-ə
table+the near key writing staying woman+the
the woman typing at the table

g. aṯṯɛhi ɛlli: sitinə wawula:
aṯṯ-ə-ɛhi ɛlli: sitinə wawul-a:
branch+the+in hanging staying bat+the
the bat hanging on the branch

h. nil kamisəjə hæðə sitinə laməja:
nil kamisəj-ə hæðə sitinə laməj-a:
blue shirt+the has worn staying child+the
the child in blue shirt

i. wælɛhi ɛlla æṯi rɛḏi
wæl-ə-ɛhi ɛlla æṯi rɛḏi+0
line+the+in hanging has clothes+the
the clothes on the line

j.	ɖamwælɛn	bæðə	sitinə	balla:
	ɖamwæl-ə-ɛn	bæðə	sitinə	ball-a:
	leash+the+with	tied	staying	dog+the
	the dog on the leash			

k.	putuwə	udə	hiðəgɛnə	sitinə	minisa:
	putuw-ə	udə	hiðəgɛnə	sitinə	minis-a:
	chair+the	on	sitting	staying	man+the
	the man on the chair				

All these examples present resultative states in Sinhala. For exampe, in 17. j. the verb hæða sitinə indicates the consequence of wearing the shirt. In 17. k. ɛlla æti indicates that the speaker conceives the clothes as a result of somebody's hanging them on the line and in 17. l. bæðə sitinə is a resultative state of somebody's tying the dog. All these give information about the orientation (i. e. what action has caused the spatial entity to be in that state) of the spatial entity.

It is worth mentioning here the difference between the examples 3.d and 17.k. The difference between these two seems purely pragmatic. If a speaker wants to emphasise the action that caused the location of the spatial entity, then he may choose 17.k. If he is refering just to the locality of the spatial entity then the he would prefer the example 3.d.

As indicated earlier, the location of the spatial entity in relation to the localizer is expressed using either a postposition or a suffix in Sinhala. The special feature in Sinhala spatial

expressions is that Sinhala also shows how the spatial entity is oriented in relation to the localizer.

Lative spatial expressions in Sinhala

The embodiment of information in lative expressions are different compared with the locative constructions in Sinhala. Lative spatial expressions indicate a movement of the spatial entity in relation to the localizer. Following are some examples of lative spatial constructions in Sinhala.

(18) a. attə ḏige: ḏuwənə le:na:
att-ə ḏige: ḏuwənə le:n-a:
branch-the along running squirrel+the
the squirrel running along the branch

b. pa:rə dige: æwiḏinə laməja:
pa:r-ə dige: æwiḏinə laməj-a:
road+the along walking child+the
the children walking along the road

c. me:səjə udətə pænnə balələ:
me:səj-ə udətə pænnə balə̆l-a:
table+the onto jumped cat+the
the cat jumped onto the table

d. liḏə æṯulətə wætunu le:na:
liḏ-ə æṯulətə wætunu le:n-a:
well+the into fell squirrel+the
the squirrel fell into the well

e. ku:duwɛn iwəɻətə pijæ:ɓu: kurulla:
ku:duw-ə-ɛn iwəɻətə pijæ:ɓu: kurull-a:
cage+the+from out of flew bird+the
the bird flew out of the cage

f. nuwərə sitə ɛnə basəjə
nuwərə sitə ɛnə basəj-ə
kandy from coming bus-the
the bus coming from Kandy

g. nuwərin pitaɻwɛnə basəjə
nuwərə-in pitaɻwɛnə basəj-ə
Kandy-from leaving bus+the
the bus leaving Kandy

h. nuwərətə jənə basəjə
nuwərə-tə jənə basəj-ə
kandy-to going bus+the
the bus going to Kandy

i. ɻattuwɛn iwəɻətə wætunu poɻə
tattuw-ə-ɛn iwəɻətə wætunu poɻ-ə
shelf+the+from off fell book+the
the book fell off the shelf

j. wæwə harəha: pi:nu: hansəja:
wæw-ə harəha: pi:nu: hansəj-a:
lake+the across swam swan+the
the swan swam across the lake

k. wæwətə udin pijæ:ɓu: kurullo:
wæw-ə-tə udin pijæ:ɓu: kurull-o:
lake+the+to above flew birds+the
the birds flew above the lake

Since these examples express a movement of the spatial entity they do not contain a stative verb. The spatial relations between the two entities are expressed in terms of spatial verbs and either a case marker (example g.) or a postposition (example f.).

Constraints on the verb form

The following examples illustrate the constraints on using the verb forms in locative constructions in Sinhala. Both of the following phrases could be used and are grammatical in Sinhala.

(19) nil kamisəyɛhi æʈi pælləmə
nil kamisəy-ə-ɛhi æʈi pælləm-ə
blue shirt+the+in has stain+the
the stain on the blue shirt.

(20) nil kamisəyɛhi pælləmə
nil kamisəy-ə-ɛhi pælləm-ə
blue shirt+the+in stain+the
the stain on the blue shirt

but again,

(21) *nil kamisəjɛhi minisa
nil kamisəj-ə-ɛhi minisa
blue shirt+the+in the man
the man in the blue shirt

would be unacceptable. Also look at the following examples.

(22) me:səjə udə æṭi poṭə
me:səj-ə udə æṭi poṭ-ə
table+the on has book+the
the book on the table

(23) me:səjə udə sitinə balәla:
me:səj-ə udə sitinə balәl-a:
table+the on has cat+the
the cat on the table

The acceptability of the following constructions, as locative noun phrases, without the verb is questionable.

(24) a) *me:səjə udə poṭə
b) *me:səjə udə balәla:

The unacceptability of the constructions in (24) seems to be due to their incompleteness (i.e. omission of the verb).

The spatial entity pælləmə (the stain) is seen as an inseparable part of kamisəjɛhi (in the shirt). When a part whole relationship is expressed, Sinhala has the choice of

omitting the verb form. The following examples illustrate this fact further.

(25) a. aɻɛhi æɻi æ̃ili
aɻ-ə-ɛhi æɻi æ̃il-i
hand+the+in has fingers+the
the fingers in the hand

or

b. aɻɛhi æ̃ili
aɻ-ə-ɛhi æ̃il-i
hand+the+in fingers+the
the fingers in the hand

c. me:səjɛhi æɻi kakul
me:səj-ə-ɛhi æɻi kakul-^{0}
table+the+in has legs+the
the legs of the table

or

d. me:səjɛhi kakul
me:səj-ə-ɛhi kakul-^{0}
table+the+in legs+the
the legs of the table

e. obe: hisɛhi (æɻi) kɛs
obe: his-ə-ɛhi (æɻi) kɛs-^{0}
your head+the+on (has) hair
the hair on your head

Therefore, when the relationship between the spatial entity and the localizer is seen as a part whole relationship in

a locative construction the verb is optional as in the example (19) above.

Summary

This discussion shows that the equivalent expressions of prepositional spatial constructions in English are constructed in Sinhala using suffixes or postpositions depending on the meaning that the speaker wants to convey. In English spatial prepositional expressions, the spatial entity is described in relation to the localizer in a projected space. It was shown that in Sinhala, in addition to the description of the location of the spatial entity, the orientation of the spatial entity too is shown with reference to the localizer in the projected space. Also it was shown that this is done by means of a stative verb. These stative verbs are sensitive to animate/inanimate, part/whole, and resultative distinctions.

In conclusion, spatial expressions in Sinhala show that what Sinhala speakers conceive and conceptualize are not only the relation of the spatial entity to the localizer, but also the states, events and actions which are involved in originating those schematizations.

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